

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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SUBJECT: TOP JAPANESE BUSINESS LEADRS TO VISIT CHINA OCTOBER
17-27.

REF: TOKYO A-454

1. JAPAN FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (KEIDANREN)
PRESIDENT TOSHIO DOKO WILL LEAD A SMALL GOOD WILL MISSION OF
TOP JAPANESE BUSINESS LEADERS TO CHINA OCTOBER 17-27. AC-
CORDING TO KEIDANREN SOURCES THE VISIT IS AT CHINA'S INVITA-
TION AND IS PRIMARILY TO COMMEMORATE THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY
OF NORMALIZATION OF SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS. THE GROUP
EXPECTS TO INSPECT CHINESE INDUSTRIAL CENTERS INCLUDING
TAKANG OIL FIELD, SHANGHAI, SAIN, AND HANGCHOW, AND HOLD
GENERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH TOP CHINESE LEADERS (HOPEFULLY
INCLUDING PREMIER CHOU) ON THE STATE OF THE JAPANESE
ECONOMY, CHINA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS, AND FUTURE
BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

2. MISSION MEMBERS REPRESENT THE HEADS OF SOME OF
JAPAN'S LARGEST INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS: B. OTSUKI, PRES.,
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MITSUBISHI MINING & CHEMENT; K. HASEGAWA, PRES., SUMITOMO

CHEMICALS; S. MATSUNE, KEIDANREN ENERGY POLICY CHAIRMAN;
K. KAWASE, PRES., TOKO BUSSAN; Y. YASUI, PRES., TORAY,
Y. INAYAMA, PRES., JAPAN STEEL AND CHAIRMAN OF
JAPAN-CHINA OIL IMPORT CONFERENCE WILL JOIN MISSION ON
OCTOBER 21 AS HEAD OF SEPARATE PETROLEUM GROUP THAT
PLANS TO HOLD GENERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH CHINESE ON
POSSIBILITY FOR LONG TERM AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY OIL.

3. COMMENT: MISSION IS SECOND SENT BY KEIDANREN SINCE
NORMALIZATION. ALTHOUGH LARGELY SYMBOLIC, THESE HIGH
LEVEL PRIVATE MISSIONS ARE REGARDED BY JAPANESE AS
IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN BUILDING SOLID AND PRODUCTIVE
ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA. TIMING IS THUS IMPORTANT.
FOR THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF SINO-JAPANESE ECONOMIC
RELATIONS HAVE BEEN PLAGUED BY A SERIES OF DIFFICULTIES
LARGELY TRACEABLE TO RECESSIONARY CONDITIONS IN JAPAN.
THAT DOKO HAS CHOSEN TO ACCEPT THE LONG-STANDING CHINESE
INVITATION AT THIS TIME MAY INDICATE THAT HE FEELS
BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN JAPAN MAY IMPROVE SO AS TO
SUPPORT SOME INCREASE IN IMPORTS OF CHINESE GOODS.

WE DO NOT BELIEVE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS TRIP
NECESSARILY INDICATES LONG TERM OIL ARRANGEMENT IS
IMMINENT. THERE IS NOT YET AGREEMENT WITHIN THE GOJ
OR BETWEEN THE GOJ AND INDUSTRY ON ITS MERIT, LET
ALONE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SUCH AN AGREEMENT
WOULD BE ADVISABLE.
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